

JONAH: THE WRONG-WAY PROPHET (Part 8)

“Don’t Get the Jonah Disease!” (Jonah 4:9-11)

INTRO: Review Jonah series. First message big picture. Next 6, gave specific details of Jonah’s journey. Reviewing, Chs. 1-4...today, a broad-brush to recap this intriguing & instructing book. Tragically, many follow Jonah into the fish and never get out, missing the great lessons of the book. This book not about a whale (3 verses of 48). It details a battle of the wills. Today’s recap is titled... ILL: JD illness . . .

ILLUS. - Ever had a physical? Examine your tongue, heart, pulse, reflexes, eyes, ears, etc. Physicals are largely preventive. Let’s take a “spiritual”, which I pray will be more preventative than corrective. The purpose of our “spiritual” is to diagnose whether or not you have “Jonah Disease”. Look at 3 questions:

I. THE DISEASE - WHAT IS THE “JONAH DISEASE”?

- A. Jonah’s disease was NOT He was: called, disobeyed and fled, swallowed by a fish (would tend to make you sick), he hated his enemies, and so on. These were symptoms of his disease. What was the root of his illness? Root issues from Clinical Psychiatrist on Jonah . . .
- B. Jonah was displeased to the point of deep-seated, unresolved anger with God, that God asked him to do something he didn’t want to do and God did something Jonah didn’t want Him to do.
- C. JONAH DISEASE – ME-itis. Ex. . . . Inflammation of self! Often leads to unresolved and unconfessed anger with God when His will displeases and goes against my will. There’s a little Jonah in all of us and a lot of Jonah in MOST of us.

II. THE DIAGNOSIS - WHAT ARE ITS SYMPTOMS?

Can this disease be diagnosed in one’s life? There are several symptoms evidenced in the life of Jonah that can detect whether or not you are infected by this dangerous spiritual disease. The more numerous the symptoms the more advanced the disease. His Me-itis led to:

- A. **STUBBORN DISOBEDIENCE TO THE KNOWN WILL OF GOD (1:1-3)**
—It is one thing to disobey God out of ignorance; another when His will is clear. He clearly knew what God wanted, but he stubbornly disobeyed. An inseparable connection between discovering the unknown will of God and doing the known will of God. Led downward away from God and resulted in discipline. Can run, can’t hide.
- B. **SEEKING GOD IN PRAYER ONLY IN TIMES OF TROUBLE**
 - 1. Two Jonah prayers: One (2:1-9), personal distress, and two (4:2-3), personal disagreement with God. Jonah vowed to obey God’s will he had previously disobeyed while in trouble (2:9).
 - 2. Jonah has a “fox-hole” faith. As long as things go my way I don’t need God, but at first sign of trouble or disagreement, I run to God.

C. **INCONSISTENCY IN YOUR WALK WITH GOD** - Jonah was a paradox of inconsistency. For instance:

- 1. (1:9) Lord, I worship you; I just don’t obey you because I don’t think you know what you’re doing. Many come and worship whose lives are marked by dishonesty, immorality, etc. And never change.
- 2. Three times he wanted to die (1:12; 4:3, 9), but he thanks God for His salvation and deliverance (2:4-9). Confused about what he wanted God to do.
- 3. Refused to preach in Nineveh, but willing to die for pagan sailors.
- 4. Values and priorities were inconsistent and out-of-balance. He got happy over temporary personal comfort of shade, but got mad over the salvation of the Ninevites.
- 5. A huge gap between what he knew (God’s will and character) and how he behaved. He believed right but behaved wrong.

D. INDIFFERENCE TO GOD’S LOVE FOR ALL THE LOST

In 1:4ff he could’ve witnessed to sailors but didn’t. In Ch. 3 he did witness to Ninevites, but his heart wasn’t in it. Even after a great revival, he should’ve been rejoicing and discipling, but he retreated and watched (4:5).

E. *INSENSITIVITY, EVEN BLINDNESS, TO THE WORK OF GOD IN HIS LIFE AND AROUND HIM*

Time and again God reach out in love to get Jonah’s attention, but he was so blind. There was miracle after miracle (9 in all). God gave him a second chance (3:1). God sovereignly provided him so much. But Jonah wanted God’s blessings not lessons.

F. **ARROGANCE** - Jonah thought he knew “better” than God (4:2-3, 8). We’re in trouble when so arrogant to think we know better than God about anything. Jonah thought he knew better than God about his own life and death and the saving of the Ninevites.

III. THE DEFENSE - HOW IS “ME-itis” CURED?

- A. Confess your anger (4:2; Jam. 1:19-20).
- B. Practice gratefulness. Jonah had so much to be thankful for . . .
- C. Put others before self (Jn. 13:35).
- D. Ask yourself the same three questions God asked Jonah . . . Why are you angry? Why are you angry at a plant? Why are you angry at My mercy?

CONC: How’d you do on your “spiritual” ME-itis checklist? Do you have this dreaded disease? How far along is it? It usually isn’t terminal, but can be paralyzing! Don’t be “Jonah-headed!” Clear the deck by confession and start over with another chance. Stick-out your...